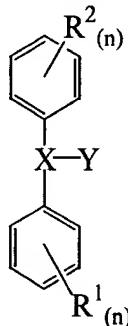


## AMENDMENTS

### In the Claims:

Please replace claims 28-39 with the following clean set of claims.

28. (Amended) An agent which protects stratified squamous epithelium against injury by a noxious substance, and has the formula:



wherein: X is a linker selected from the group consisting of C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkylene, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkenylene, and C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkynylene, wherein X may optionally include 1 or 2 oxygen atoms and/or 1 sulfur atom;

Y is a group pendant from X, wherein Y is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkenyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkynyl, aromatic or cyclic-aliphatic to which is attached at least one -OSO<sub>3</sub>R<sup>4</sup> moiety, wherein R<sup>4</sup> is H or a pharmaceutically acceptable cation, and, optionally, at least one hydroxyl group; or,

Y is -OSO<sub>3</sub>R<sup>4</sup>, wherein R<sup>4</sup> is H or a pharmaceutically acceptable cation;

n is an integer from 1-3; and

R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> are each independently selected from the group consisting of -H, a halogen with an atomic number from 9 to 53, hydroxy, -SO<sub>3</sub>R<sup>4</sup>, -OSO<sub>3</sub>R<sup>4</sup>, -NCS, -NCO, -NH(CO)-OR<sup>3</sup>, -NH(CS)SR<sup>3</sup>, -NH(C=NH)OR<sup>3</sup>, -NHCOCH<sub>2</sub>Cl, -NHCOCH<sub>2</sub>Br, -NHCO-CH=CH<sub>2</sub>, -NHC(O)-CF<sub>3</sub>, -S-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH=CH<sub>2</sub>, -NHCH<sub>2</sub>-C≡CH, -NH-CH<sub>2</sub>-CN, -NH-S-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH=CH<sub>2</sub>, -O-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH=CH<sub>2</sub>, -NH-CF<sub>3</sub>, N-mono-, di-, tri-, tetra- and penta-haloethyl, -CN, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -NO<sub>2</sub>, -NHCOCH<sub>3</sub>, -CHO, -COOR<sup>4</sup>, -N<sub>3</sub>, -COR<sup>3</sup>, -R<sup>3</sup>OH, -R<sup>3</sup>NHCOCH<sub>3</sub>, -R<sup>3</sup>OSO<sub>3</sub>R<sup>4</sup>, -R<sup>3</sup>SO<sub>3</sub>R<sup>4</sup>, -OR<sup>3</sup>, -SR<sup>3</sup> and -R<sup>3</sup>, wherein R<sup>3</sup> is p-nitrophenyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkenyl, or C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkynyl, if at the distal end of the substituent, or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkylene, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkenylene, or C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkynylene, if at the proximal end of the substituent, and wherein R<sup>4</sup> is H or a pharmaceutically acceptable cation.

29. The agent of claim 28, wherein at least one of R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> is -NCS.

30. The agent of claim 28, wherein X is -OCH<sub>2</sub>- or -CH<sub>2</sub>O-.

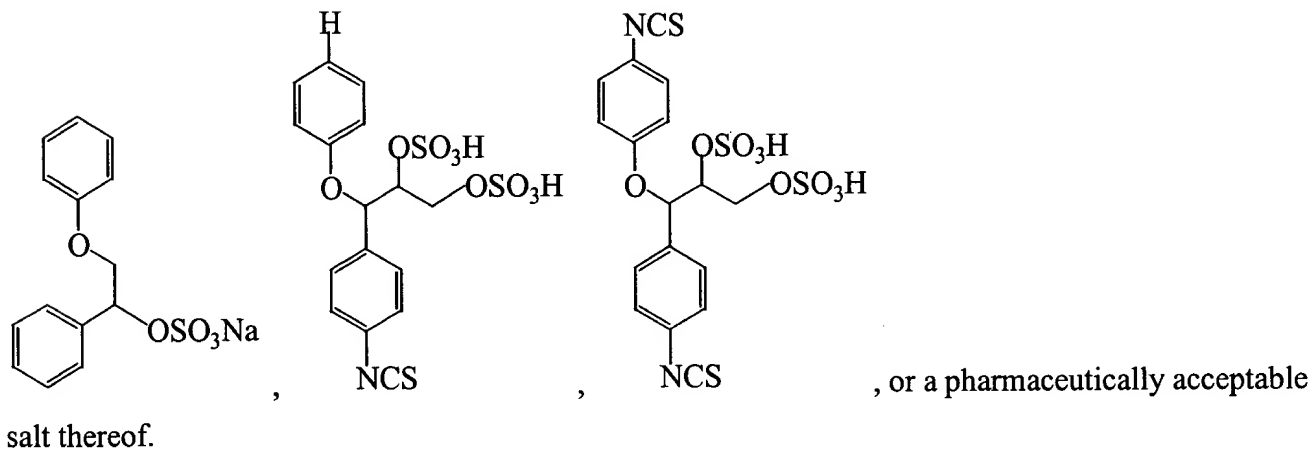
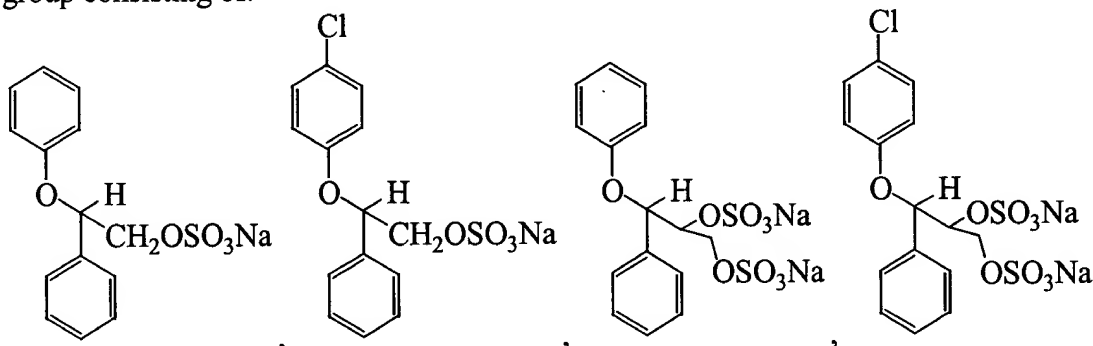
31. The agent of claim 28, wherein Y is C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, to which is attached at least one -OSO<sub>3</sub>R<sup>4</sup> moiety.

32. The agent of claim 28, wherein Y is a sulfonated polycarbinol chain of 1 to 6 sulfonated carbon atoms.

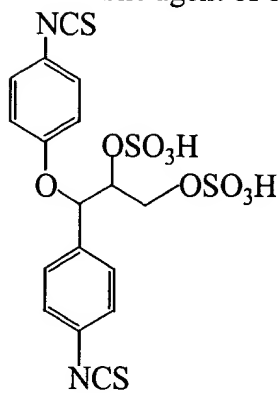
33. (Amended) The agent of claim 28, wherein at least two -OSO<sub>3</sub>R<sup>4</sup> moieties are attached to Y.

34. The agent of claim 28, wherein Y is ethyl-1,2-disulfate.

35. (Amended) The agent of claim 28, wherein the agent is selected from the group consisting of:

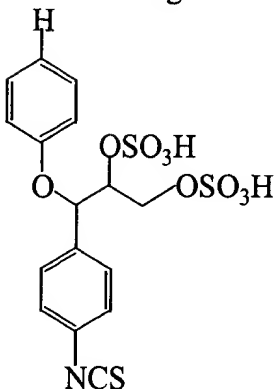


36. The agent of claim 35, wherein the agent is



, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

37. The agent of claim 35, wherein the agent is



, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

38. A composition comprising an agent according to claim 28 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

39. A composition comprising an agent according to claim 28 and a proton pump inhibitor.

*(NE)*  
Please add new claims 41-42.

41. (New) The agent of claim 28, wherein from 2 to 6  $-\text{OSO}_3\text{R}^4$  moieties are attached to Y.

*24*  
42. (New) The agent of claim 28, wherein Y is  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$  alkyl,  $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_6$  alkenyl, or  $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_6$  alkynyl.